

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV .. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

I live in Rural CA, Paso Robles, CA. I live about 14,000-15,000 feet from the center of downtown Paso Robles. I have lived here since 1976. I have used 'C' band satellite since about 1984 and 3 years ago added DBS as a second choice. Cable is not available to me. I can not subscribe to a local market on Satellite as it is not available now. With the merger the San Luis Obispo market will become available for me to purchase as the people in Paso Robles is doing along with some distant network signals. I can't receive distant network signals for NBC because as of now the local NBC station in San Luis Obispo won't give me a waiver. This merger would be of great benefit to many Satellite subs in this area.

Sincerely,

James Pettyjohn  
550 Ariba Road  
Paso Robles, CA 93446